

(19)



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(11)

EP 0 811 356 A3

(12)

**EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:  
15.04.1998 Bulletin 1998/16

(51) Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup>: **A61B 17/70**

(43) Date of publication A2:  
10.12.1997 Bulletin 1997/50

(21) Application number: 97106894.5

(22) Date of filing: 25.04.1997

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
AT BE CH DE ES FR GB IT LI NL SE

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(30) Priority: 05.06.1996 US 658749

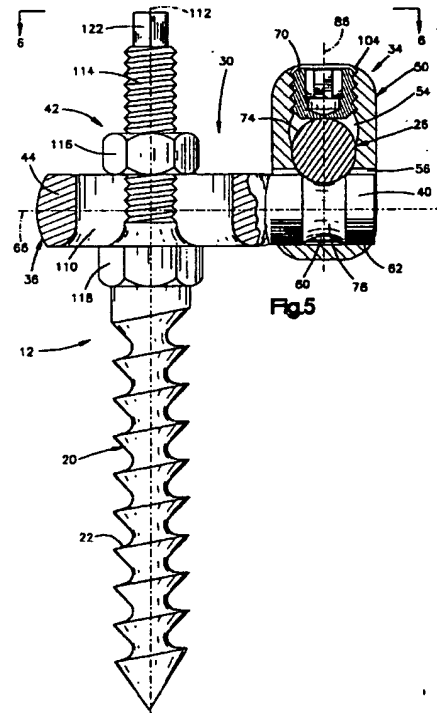
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**(54) Spinal column retaining apparatus**

(57) An apparatus for retaining vertebrae in a desired spatial relationship. The apparatus includes a fastener which cooperates with a connector assembly, a longitudinal member which is positionable along the spinal column at a location offset from the fastener, and a connector assembly which connects the fastener with the longitudinal member. The connector assembly includes a transverse member, a retainer block, and a set screw. The transverse member and retainer block have mating teeth. When the desired spatial relationship is achieved, the set screw is tightened thereby engaging the teeth and providing for a rigid locked assembly.



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 97 10 6894

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	US 5 474 551 A (FINN ET AL.) * the whole document *	1,2,4	A61B17/70
Y	---	3,5-17	
D,Y	US 5 053 034 A (OLERUD) * column 2, line 21-52 * * column 3, line 23 - column 4, line 3; figures *	3,12-17	
A	---	7,8	
Y	US 5 282 801 A (SHERMAN) * column 5, line 33 - column 7, line 12; figures 5-7 *	5-10	
D,Y	US 5 129 900 A (ASHER ET AL.) * column 3, line 43-62; figures 1-4 *	11	
A	---	14	
D,A	US 5 254 118 A (MIRKOVIC) * abstract: figures *		
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			A61B
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		18 February 1998	Giménez Burgos, R
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (PdcC01)